

GLOBAL
EDITION



Racial and Ethnic Groups

FOURTEENTH EDITION

Richard T. Schaefer



ALWAYS LEARNING

PEARSON

Racial and Ethnic Groups

Fourteenth Edition

Global Edition

4-10

described above, scholars are increasingly giving attention to “social remittances” that include ideas, social norms, and practices (religious and secular) throughout this global social network (Levitt and Jaworsky 2007).

The Environment and Immigration

4-9 Interpret how immigration is related to the environment.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the public expressed growing concern on a variety of environmental issues, from water quality to global warming. As with so many other aspects of life, the environment and immigration are tightly linked.

First, environmental factors are behind a significant amount of world migration. Famine, typhoons, rising sea levels, expanding deserts, chronic water shortages, earthquakes, and so forth lead to cross-border migration. One estimate suggests up to 200 million people may move due to environmental factors between 2005 and 2050. **Environmental refugees** are people forced to leave their communities because of natural disasters, or the effects of climate change and global warming. A particularly deadly aspect of this forced movement is that overwhelmingly the migration is by vulnerable poor people to developing countries ill-suited to accept the arrivals (International Organization for Migration 2009; Meyers 2005; Stern 2007).

Second, some environmentalists favor reducing or even ending United States population growth by imposing a much more restrictive immigration policy. The respected environmentalist group Sierra Club debated for several years whether to take an official position favoring restricting immigration. Thus far, the majority of the club’s members have indicated a desire to keep a neutral position rather than enter the politically charged immigration debate.

Yet others still contend for the United States to finally address environmental problems at home and become global environmental citizens and for the United States to stop population growth. Critics of this environmentalist approach counter that we should focus on consumption, not population (Barringer 2004; CaFaro and Staples 2009; National Public Radio 2013).

Refugees

4-10 Restate the United States’ policies toward refugees.

Refugees are people who live outside their country of citizenship for fear of political or religious persecution. Approximately 11 million refugees exist worldwide, enough to populate an entire “nation.” That nation of refugees is larger than Belgium, Sweden, or Cuba. The United States has touted itself as a haven for political refugees. However, political refugees have not always received an unqualified welcome.

The United States makes the largest financial contribution of any nation to worldwide assistance programs. As such, it resettles between 56,000 and 73,000 refugees annually and has hosted over one million refugees between 1990 and 2008. Following 9/11, procedures have become much more cumbersome for foreigners to acquire refugee status and gain entry to the United States. Many other much smaller and poorer nations

have received much larger numbers of refugees, with Jordan, Iran, and Pakistan hosting more than one million refugees each (Martin and Yankay 2013; United Nations High Commission on Refugees 2008).

The United States, insulated by distance from wars and famines in Europe and Asia, has been able to be selective about which and how many refugees are welcomed. Since the arrival of refugees uprooted by World War II through the 1980s, the United States allowed three groups of refugees to enter in numbers greater than regulations would ordinarily permit: Hungarians, Cubans, and Southeast Asians.

Despite periodic public opposition, the U.S. government is officially committed to accepting refugees from other nations. In Table 4.5, we consider the major sources

TABLE 4.5
Top Sources of Refugees

2000		2012	
1. Bosnia-Herzegovina	22,699	Bhutan	15,070
2. Yugoslavia (former)	14,280	Burma	14,160
3. Vietnam	9,622	Iraq	12,163
4. Ukraine	8,649	Somalia	4,911
5. Russia	4,386	Cuba	2,920
Total of All Countries:	85,076		58,179

Source: Martin and Yankay 2013:3.

of refugees. According to the United Nations treaty on refugees, which our government ratified in 1968, countries are obliged to refrain from forcibly returning people to territories where their lives or liberty might be endangered. However, it is not always clear whether a person is fleeing for his or her personal safety or to escape poverty. Although people in the latter category may be of humanitarian interest, they do not meet the official definition of refugees and are subject to deportation.

Refugees are people who are granted the right to enter a country while still residing abroad. **Asylees** are foreigners who have already entered the United States and seek protection because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country. This persecution may be based on the individual's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Asylees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the United States. Asylum is granted to about 12,000 people annually.

Because asylees, by definition, are already here, they are either granted legal entry or returned to their home country. The practice of deporting people who are fleeing poverty has been the subject of criticism. The United States has a long tradition of facilitating the arrival of people leaving Communist nations, such as the Cubans. Mexicans who are refugees from poverty, Liberians fleeing civil war, and Haitians running from despotic rule are not similarly welcomed. The plight of Haitians is of particular concern.

Haitians began fleeing their country, often on small boats, in the 1980s. The U.S. Coast Guard intercepted many Haitians at sea, saving some of these boat people from death in their rickety and overcrowded wooden vessels. The Haitians said they feared detentions, torture, and execution if they remained in Haiti. Yet both Republican and Democratic administrations viewed most Haitian exiles as economic migrants rather than political refugees and opposed granting them asylum and permission to enter the United States. Once apprehended, the Haitians are returned. In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court, by an 8–1 vote, upheld the government's right to intercept Haitian refugees at sea and return them to their homeland without asylum hearings.

The devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti made the government reconsider this policy. Indeed, the United States halted deportations of 30,000 Haitians that were about to occur for at least 18 months. The moratorium also applied to the more than 100,000 Haitians believed to be living in the United States. As more residents of Haiti with U.S. citizenship or dual citizenship arrived from the island nation in the aftermath of the earthquake, the Haitian community increased. Despite continuing obstacles, the Haitian American community exhibits pride in those who have succeeded, from a Haitian American Florida state legislator and professional athletes to hip-hop musician Wyclef Jean. In fact, the initial earthquake refugees tended to come from the Haitian middle class or higher. Some even expressed annoyance at the quality of the public schools their children attended in America compared to the private ones in Haiti (Buchanan, Albert, and Beaulieu 2010; Office of Immigration Statistics 2013; Preston 2010; Winerip 2011).

New foreign military campaigns often bring new refugee issues. Large movements of Iraqis throughout the country and the region accompanied the occupation of Iraq, beginning in 2003. It is hoped that most will return home, but some want to relocate to the United States. As was true in Vietnam, many Iraqis who aided the U.S.-led mission have increasingly sought refuge in the West, fearing for their safety if they remain in Iraq or even in the Middle East. Gradually, the United States has begun to offer refugee status to Iraqis; some 39,000 arrived from 2010 through 2012 to create an Iraqi American community of 93,000. The diverse landscape of the United States has taken on yet another nationality group in large numbers (Asi and Beaulieu 2013; Martin and Yankay 2013).

Conclusion

The immigrant presence in the United States can often be heard on the streets and the workplace as people speak in different languages. As of 2011, radio stations broadcast in 35 languages other than English, including Albanian, Creole, Welsh, Yiddish, and Oji—a language spoken in Ghana. The Internet in 2013 expands it to over 90 languages via online radio stations aimed at the USA (Keen 2011; Omniglot 2013).

Throughout the history of the United States, as we have seen, there has been intense debate over the nation's policies that bring the immigrants who speak these and other languages to the country. In a sense, this debate reflects the deep value conflicts in the U.S. culture and parallels the "American dilemma" identified by Swedish social economist Gunnar Myrdal (1944). One strand of our culture—epitomized by the words "Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses"—has emphasized egalitarian principles and a desire to help people in their time of need. One could hardly have anticipated at the time the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in 1886 that more than a century later Barack Obama, the son of a Kenyan immigrant, would be elected President of the United States.

At the same time, however, hostility to potential immigrants and refugees—whether the Chinese in the 1880s, European Jews in the 1930s and 1940s, or Mexicans, Haitians, and Arabs today—reflects not only racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice but also a desire to maintain the dominant culture of the in-group by keeping out those viewed as outsiders. The conflict between these cultural values is central to the American dilemma of the twenty-first century.

The current debate about immigration is highly charged and emotional. Some people see it in economic terms, whereas others see the new arrivals as a challenge to the very culture of our society. Clearly, the general perception is that immigration presents a problem rather than a promise for the future.

Today's concern about immigrants follows generations of people coming to settle in the United States. This immigration in the past produced a very diverse country in terms of both nationality and religion, even before the immigration of the last 60 years. Therefore, the majority of Americans today are not descended from the English, and Protestants are just more than half of all worshipers. This diversity of religious and ethnic groups is examined in Chapter 5.

Summary

1. Immigration to the United States has changed over time from unrestricted to restricted, with the sending nations now in Latin America and Asia rather than Europe.
2. Immigration began being regulated by the United States in the nineteenth century; the first significant restriction was the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882.
3. Subsequent legislation through the national origins system favored northern and western Europeans. Not until 1965 were quotas by nation largely lifted.
4. Issues including the brain drain, population growth, mixed-status households, English-language acquisition, and economic impact influence contemporary immigration policy.
5. Often more of a concern than legal immigration has been the continuing presence of a large number of illegal immigrants.
6. Naturalization is a complex process that is still pursued by those abroad as well as by unauthorized immigrants.
7. While immigrant men may typically dominate the workers, women play a critical role in the household formation and increasingly in the workforce.
8. The worldwide integration of societies has been facilitated by transnationals who sustain multiple social relationships across borders.
9. Environment affects and, in turn, is influenced by global immigration.
10. Refugees present a special challenge to policymakers who balance humanitarian values against an unwillingness to accept all those who are fleeing poverty and political unrest.

Key Terms

asylees, p. 137	globalization, p. 134	remittances, p. 128
bilingual education, p. 126	mixed status, p. 124	sinophobes, p. 118
bilingualism, p. 126	nativism, p. 117	transnationals, p. 135
brain drain, p. 123	naturalization, p. 132	xenophobia, p. 117
chain immigration, p. 114	occupational segregation, p. 127	
environmental refugees, p. 136	refugees, p. 136	

Review Questions

1. Distinguish between restricted and unrestricted immigration.
2. What are the main reasons for legal immigration and illegal immigration?
3. Describe the main concerns regarding immigration in your country.
4. Define nativism. How does it relate to xenophobia?
5. Discuss the impact of immigration on members of minority groups in your society.
6. Explain remittances. In what ways do remittances impact the economy of a nation?
7. Explain the process and requirements of naturalization in your country.
8. In what ways does immigration impact women and children?
9. Discuss the main cause and reasons for environment-based immigration.
10. Distinguish between refugees and asylees with examples.

Critical Thinking

1. Distinguish between transnationals and dual or multiple citizenship holders. In what ways do they contribute to social and economic globalization?
2. What are the different patterns of immigration to and from your region or country? To what extent do these include illegal immigration? In what ways do you think illegal immigration impacts on social and economic environments?
3. One of the major concerns of immigration is a mixed-status family. In what ways do you think a mixed-status family differs from a uniform-status family? What are the consequences of having a mixed-status family? Can you share some experiences of your own or of your neighbors or friends as members of a mixed-status family?
4. What is your family's immigrant root story? Consider how your ancestors arrived in your country and also how other immigrant groups have shaped your family's past.



5 Ethnicity and Religious Tolerance

- 5-1 Understand what is meant by “Whiteness.”
- 5-2 Describe how people rediscover ethnicity.
- 5-3 Recall the German American experience.
- 5-4 Identify the major periods of the Irish American immigration.
- 5-5 Put into your own words the Italian American experience.
- 5-6 Restate the Polish American immigration story.
- 5-7 State what is meant by religious pluralism.
- 5-8 Interpret how the courts have ruled on religion.